STAR WARS™

DARTH VADER

MARVEL

001

SOULE
CAMUNCOLI
SMITH
CURIEL

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away....

STAR WARS

DARTH VADER

THE CHOSEN ONE

Part I

The Clone Wars are over. The Jedi are defeated. Palpatine has become Emperor, finally in position to bend the galaxy to his will through the power of the Sith.

Jedi Knight Anakin Skywalker has fallen to the dark side of the Force. Swayed by Palpatine's promise to help prevent the death of his pregnant wife Padmé, Skywalker betrayed the Jedi and became the Sith Lord Darth Vader. Defeated by his old friend and former master Obi-Wan Kenobi, Vader was left to die on the volcanic planet Mustafar.

Retrieved by Palpatine, and placed into a suit of cybernetic armor to preserve his life, Vader awakens to learn that his wife has died. Now, for Darth Vader, there is only rage, pain, and the new Galactic Empire....

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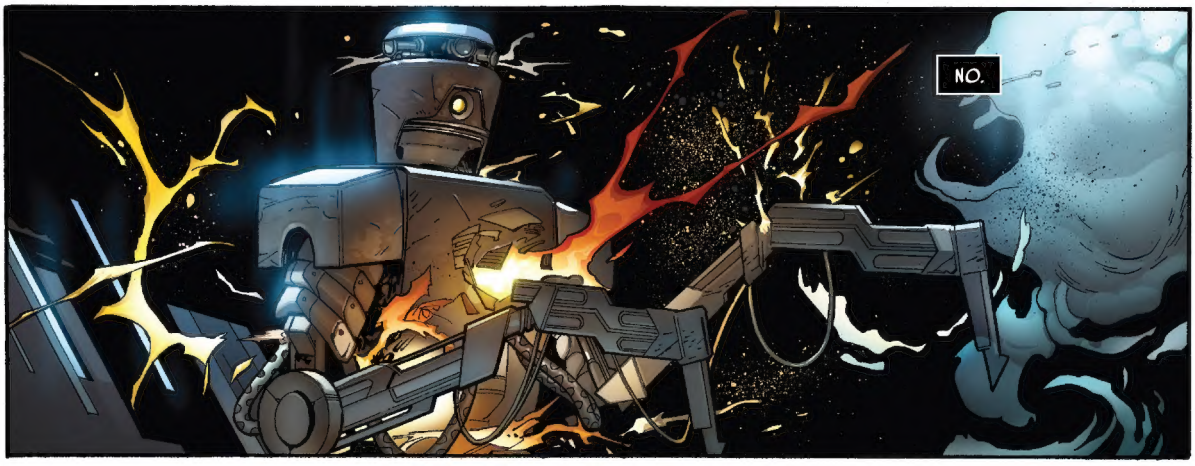
NO.


NO.

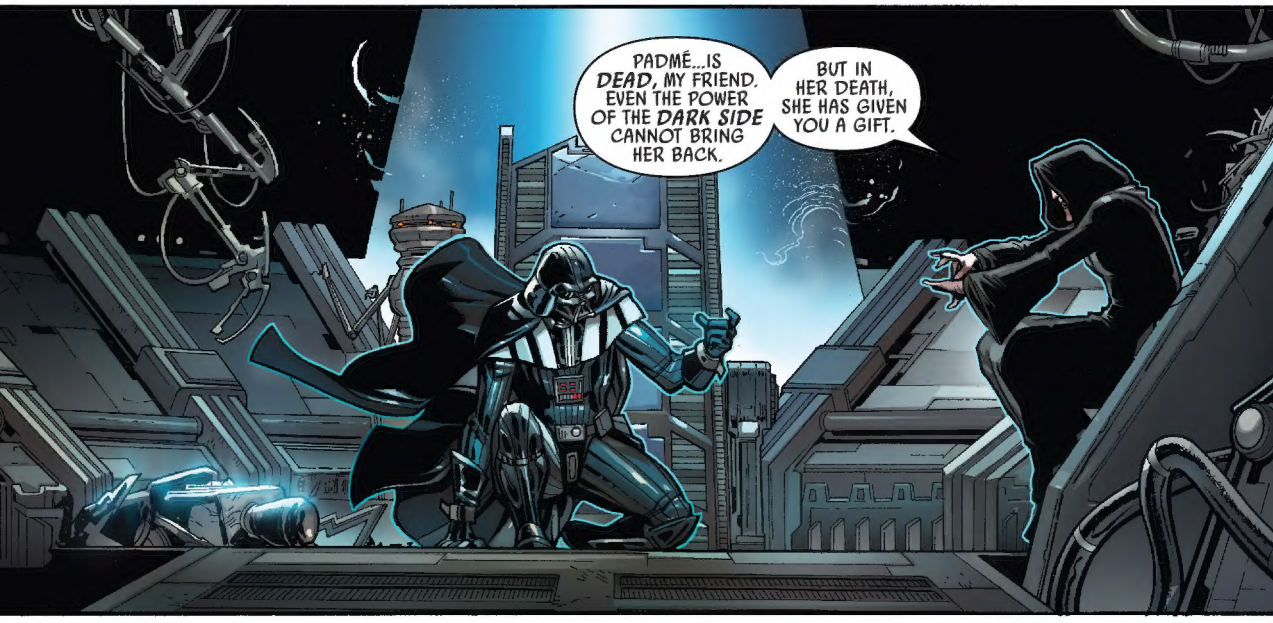
NO.

NO.

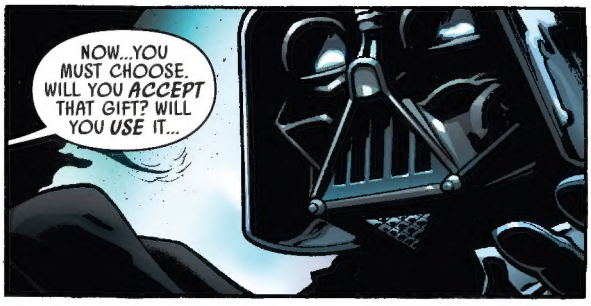
NO.
UNGH!

YOU TOLD ME YOU COULD SAVE HER.

IN YOUR RAGE YOU CHOSE...
...A DIFFERENT PATH.


PADMÉ...IS DEAD, MY FRIEND. EVEN THE POWER OF THE DARK SIDE CANNOT BRING HER BACK.
BUT IN HER DEATH, SHE HAS GIVEN YOU A GIFT.

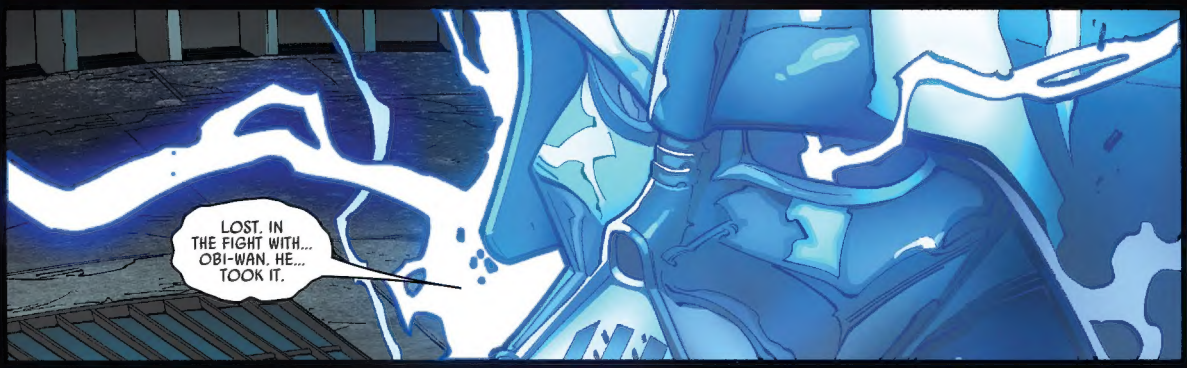
PAIN.


NOW...YOU MUST CHOOSE. WILL YOU ACCEPT THAT GIFT? WILL YOU USE IT...

...OR WILL YOU DIE?

I...WILL LIVE.
GOOD.
AND NOW...
SSSSSKRCK!
NNNNGH!

WHERE IS YOUR LIGHTSABER, LORD VADER? USE ITS POWER! DEFEND YOURSELF!


LOST. IN THE FIGHT WITH... OBI-WAN. HE... TOOK IT.

NO!

THAT BLADE BELONGED TO ANOTHER.
A JEDI.

YOU ARE A SITH.
SSSSCK!

I REALIZE THIS HAS BEEN A... TRAUMATIC TIME FOR YOU.
BUT IF YOU TOUCH ME WITH THE FORCE AGAIN, I WILL FINISH WHAT KENOBI COULD NOT.

YOU ARE MY FRIEND, LORD VADER. I DO HOPE WE NEVER FIND OURSELVES IN THIS POSITION AGAIN.
RISE. THE GREAT WORK MUST CONTINUE.
SHHK!

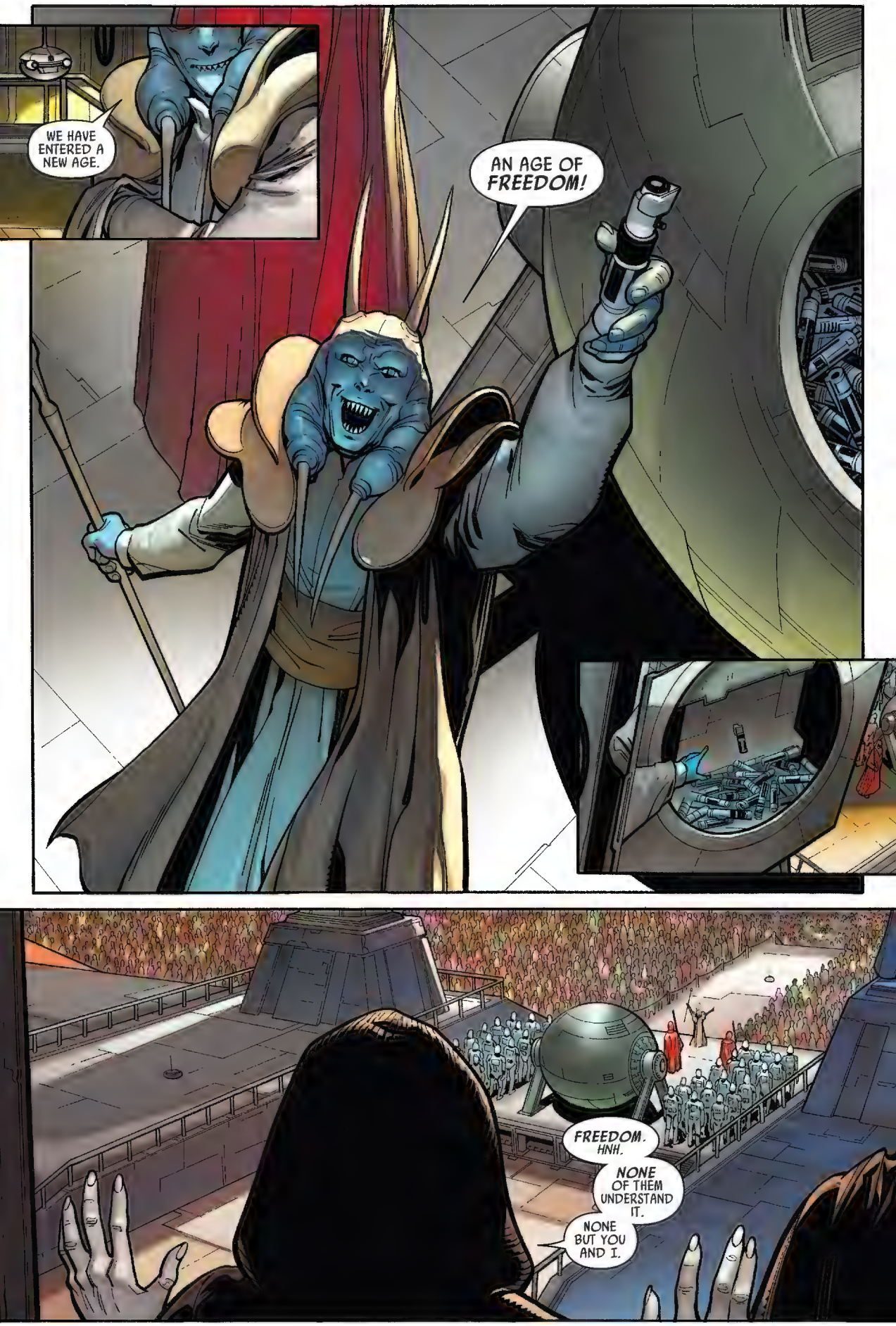
YOU THINK OF REVENGE. YOU WISH TO LEAVE, TO FIND THE SOURCE OF ALL YOUR PAIN. I CAN SENSE IT.

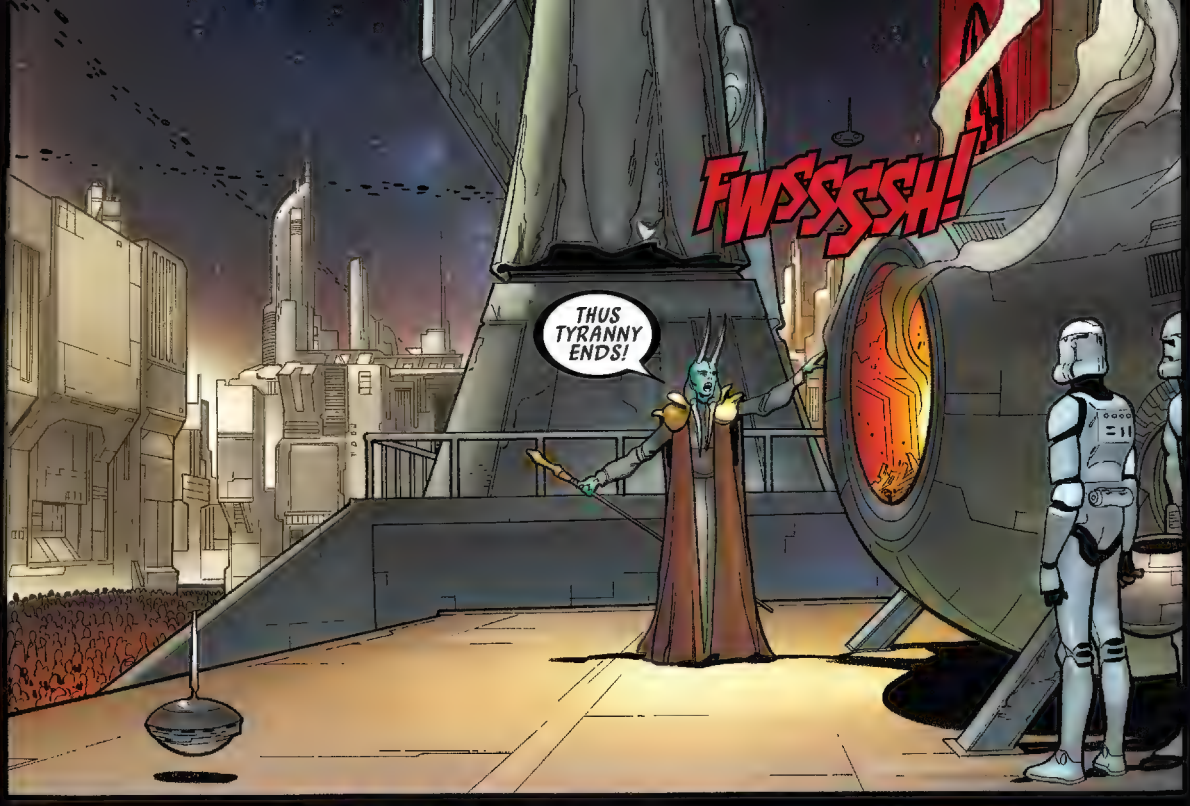
SET SUCH FEELINGS ASIDE. YOUR PERSONAL VENDETTAS PALE NEXT TO THE NEEDS OF OUR GALACTIC EMPIRE.

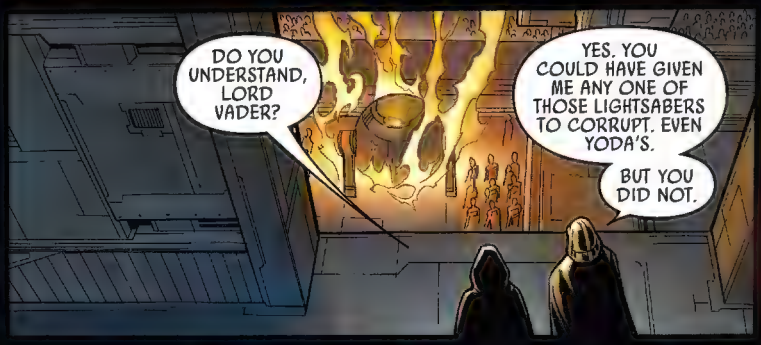
COME WITH ME. I WISH TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

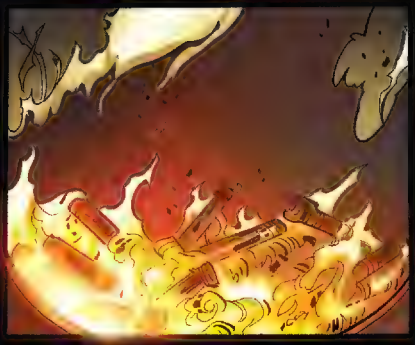
NEVER AGAIN WILL WE FEAR THE JEDI!
DO YOU KNOW WHY OUR BLADES ARE RED, LORD VADER?
NO, MASTER. THE JEDI TEACHINGS ON THIS SUBJECT WERE... INCOMPLETE.
HA!
THROUGH THE GRACE OF OUR EMPEROR PALPATINE, WE WERE SAVED FROM THEIR TREACHERY.
THE FOOLS HID THE KNOWLEDGE THEY FOUND UNCOMFORTABLE. THEY COULD NOT FACE THE DARKER TRUTHS, AND THEY PAID THE PRICE.
A RED SABER IS NO DIFFERENT THAN ANY OTHER-- EXCEPT...
...IT HAS BEEN MADE TO BLEED.

THE JEDI ARE GONE. THE EMPEROR SAW THROUGH THEIR SEPARATIST PLOTS, THEIR LIES.
HE SURVIVED THEIR ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE HIM. AND NOW, AT LAST...
...WE ARE SAFE.
THE CRYSTAL FROM ANY JEDI'S SABER WILL DO.
AS YOU KNOW, THE KYBERS ARE ALIVE, IN THEIR WAY. LIKE ANY LIVING THING, THEY CAN FEEL PAIN.
NEVER AGAIN WILL THEIR INSTRUMENTS OF OPPRESSION TERRORIZE THE GALAXY.
"THROUGH THE DARK SIDE, YOU MUST POUR YOUR PAIN INTO THE CRYSTAL. AND WHEN, AT LAST, THE AGONY BECOMES MORE THAN IT CAN STAND...
"...A BEAUTIFUL CRIMSON."
THE COLOR OF YOUR RAGE.


WE HAVE ENTERED A NEW AGE.
AN AGE OF FREEDOM!
FREEDOM. HNH.
NONE OF THEM UNDERSTAND IT.
NONE BUT YOU AND I.


FWSSSH!
THUS TYRANNY ENDS!


DO YOU UNDERSTAND, LORD VADER?
YES. YOU COULD HAVE GIVEN ME ANY ONE OF THOSE LIGHTSABERS TO CORRUPT. EVEN YODA'S.
BUT YOU DID NOT.



SSSKRCK!
AGH!

THE SABER OF A SITH IS NOT GIVEN.

IT IS TAKEN.

The Mid Rim.
YOUR ARMOR, LORD VADER. HOW DO YOU FIND IT?
IT IS...
...ACCEPTABLE.
WHY HAVE WE COME HERE, MY MASTER?
I NEED YOUR HELP, LORD VADER. I HAVE VERY HIGH HOPES FOR WHAT WE MIGHT ACHIEVE TOGETHER.
BUT FIRST...
...YOU WILL NEED YOUR LIGHTSABER.

YOU MUST SEEK OUT A JEDI FROM WHOM TO *TAKE* A KYBER CRYSTAL.
A DAUNTING TASK INDEED, AFTER OUR SUCCESS TOGETHER IN ERADICATING THEM FROM THE GALAXY.

HOWEVER, I HAVE *GREAT* FAITH IN YOUR RESOURCEFULNESS AND CAPABILITY.
GO NOW, MY APPRENTICE.

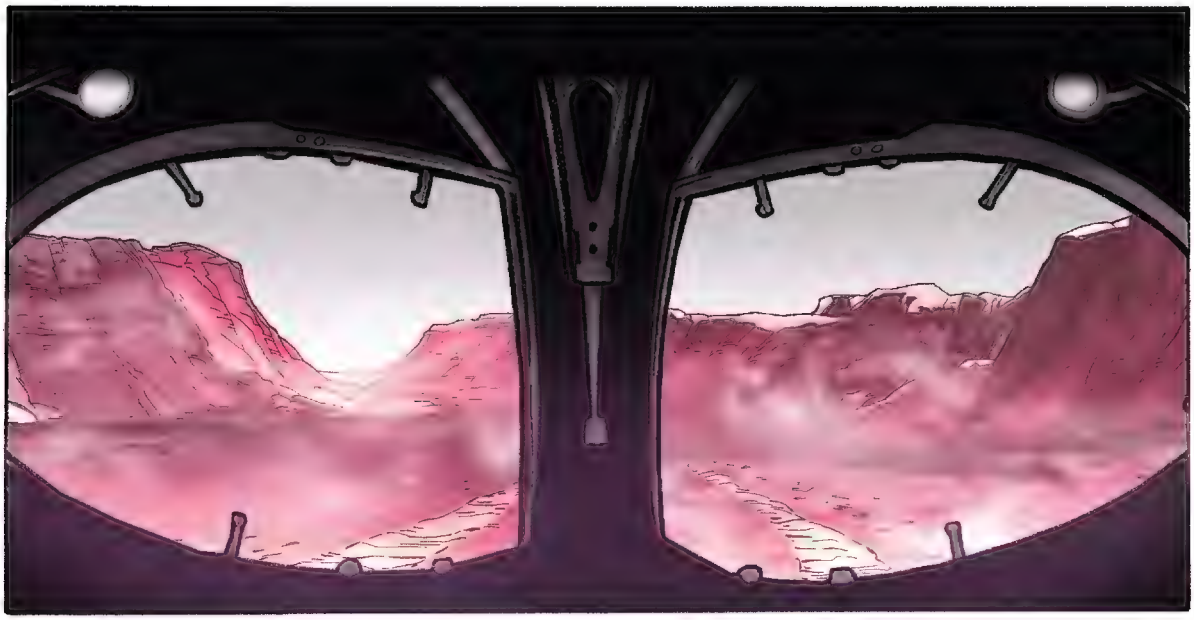
HMM. I HAD A VESSEL BROUGHT HERE FOR YOU TO USE--IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN... STOLEN.
AH, THIS LAWLESS GALAXY. TRULY, IT *CRIES OUT* FOR OUR GUIDANCE.

ARE YOU AT A LOSS, MY FRIEND? TAKE HEART. YOUR PATH IS SIMPLE.
EMBRACE THE DARK SIDE. BEND IT TO YOUR WILL, AND IT WILL PROVIDE EVERYTHING YOU NEED.

YOUR POWER WILL BECOME *ENDLESS*, LORD VADER. AND THEN WE SHALL RULE...

...AS ONE.

KLK
KLK

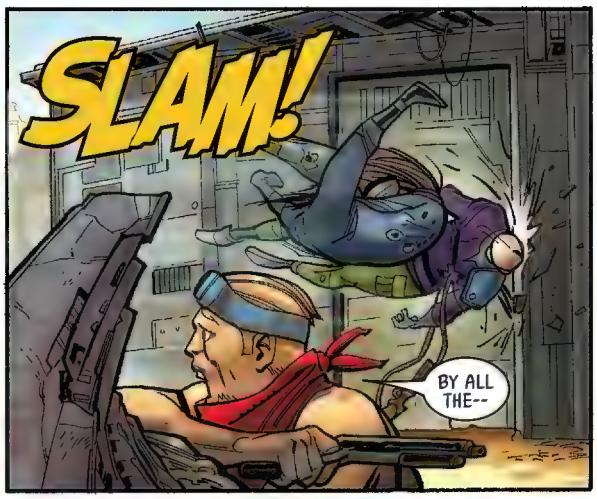


WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT THING? WHAT A BEAUT-- JUST LAYING OUT THERE IN THE DESERT, TOO.
WE CAN PROBABLY SELL IT EVEN IF WE CAN'T SLICE PAST THE ENCRYPTION. SHOULD FETCH MORE CREDITS THAN WE'LL SEE IN A YEAR OF SLAVI--
SLAMMM!

THAT SHIP...
...IS MINE.
KILL HIM!

ZKK!
ZKK!
ZKK!
ZKK!
SSSKKK!
AGH!
ZKK!
ZKK!
NNGH!
GOT HIM! I GOT HI--

AIIEEEEE!


SLAM!
BY ALL THE--

WHY ARE YOU *HERE*? WHAT DO YOU *WANT*?

FROM YOU?
KRRRCK

ONLY THIS.
WHMP!

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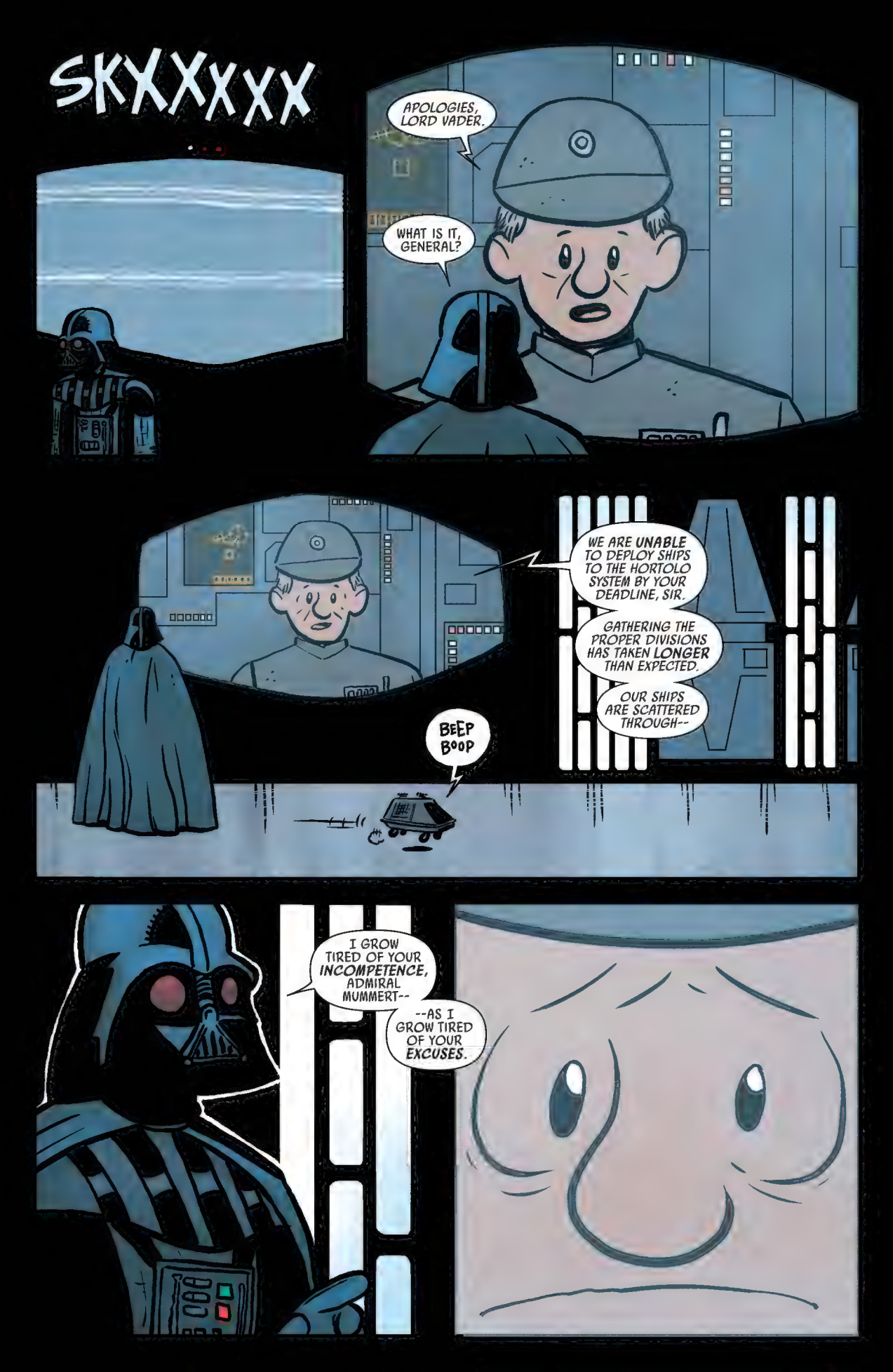
DARTH VADER'S VENATOR-CLASS STAR DESTROYER.

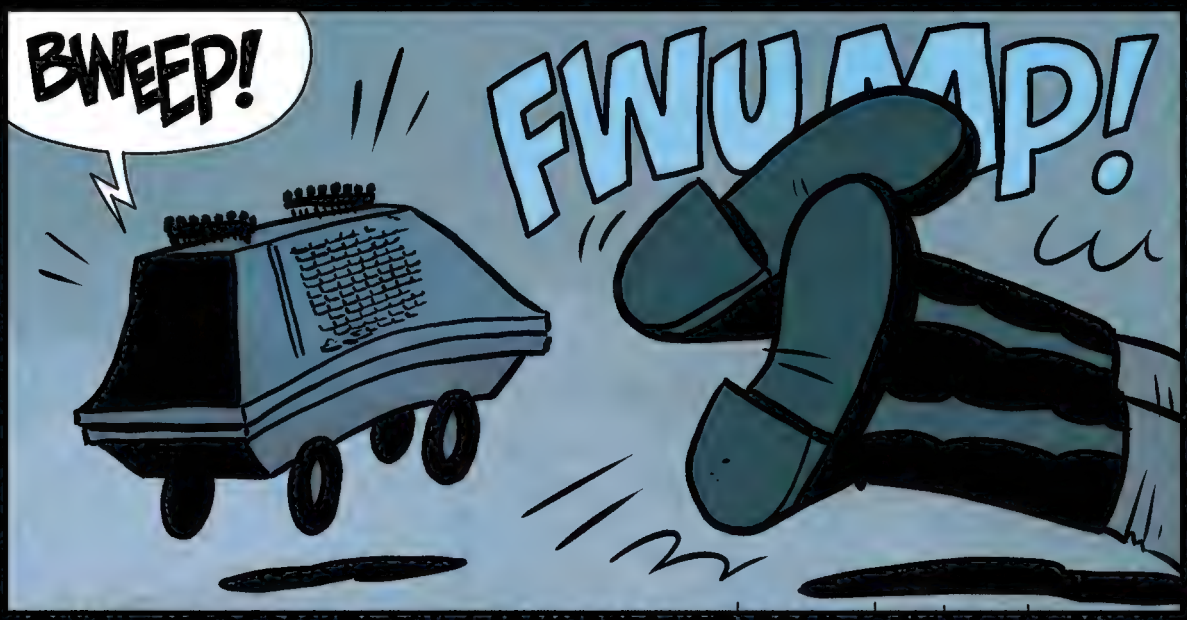
NO GOOD DEED...

BY CHRIS ELIOPOULOS & JORDIE BELLAIRE


SKXXXXX
APOLOGIES, LORD VADER.
WHAT IS IT, GENERAL?
WE ARE UNABLE TO DEPLOY SHIPS TO THE HORTOLO SYSTEM BY YOUR DEADLINE, SIR.
GATHERING THE PROPER DIVISIONS HAS TAKEN LONGER THAN EXPECTED.
OUR SHIPS ARE SCATTERED THROUGH--
BEEP BOOP
I GROW TIRED OF YOUR INCOMPETENCE, ADMIRAL MUMMERT--
--AS I GROW TIRED OF YOUR EXCUSES.

VWOOOO!
UHHHHHH...
DROID, CONTINUE PREPARATIONS OF MY CHAMBER.
BLEET BLOOOT!
FWOOSH!
LORD VADER, YOU ORDERED A FULL REPORT OF OUR TROOP STATUS IN THE WINNIKK SYSTEM.

VERY WELL, GENERAL. WHAT IS YOUR REPORT?
AND IT HAD BETTER BE TO MY *LIKING*.
UH... YES, LORD VADER.
WE HAVE 10,000 TROOPS PREPARING TO DEPLOY.
I ORDERED *50,000* TROOPS, GENERAL.
YES, UM, WELL, OUR TROOPS ARE *SPREAD THIN* THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY, AND WE--
MORE EXCUSES, GENERAL.
THAT ENDS *NOW*.
KAKK!


BWEEP!
FWUMP!

REMOVE THE BODY.

SHOOPSHOOPSHOOP

FWOOOSH!

FWOOOSH!
VRRRRR

CONTINUE TO PREPARE MY CHAMBER. I WANT NO MORE INTERRUPTIONS.

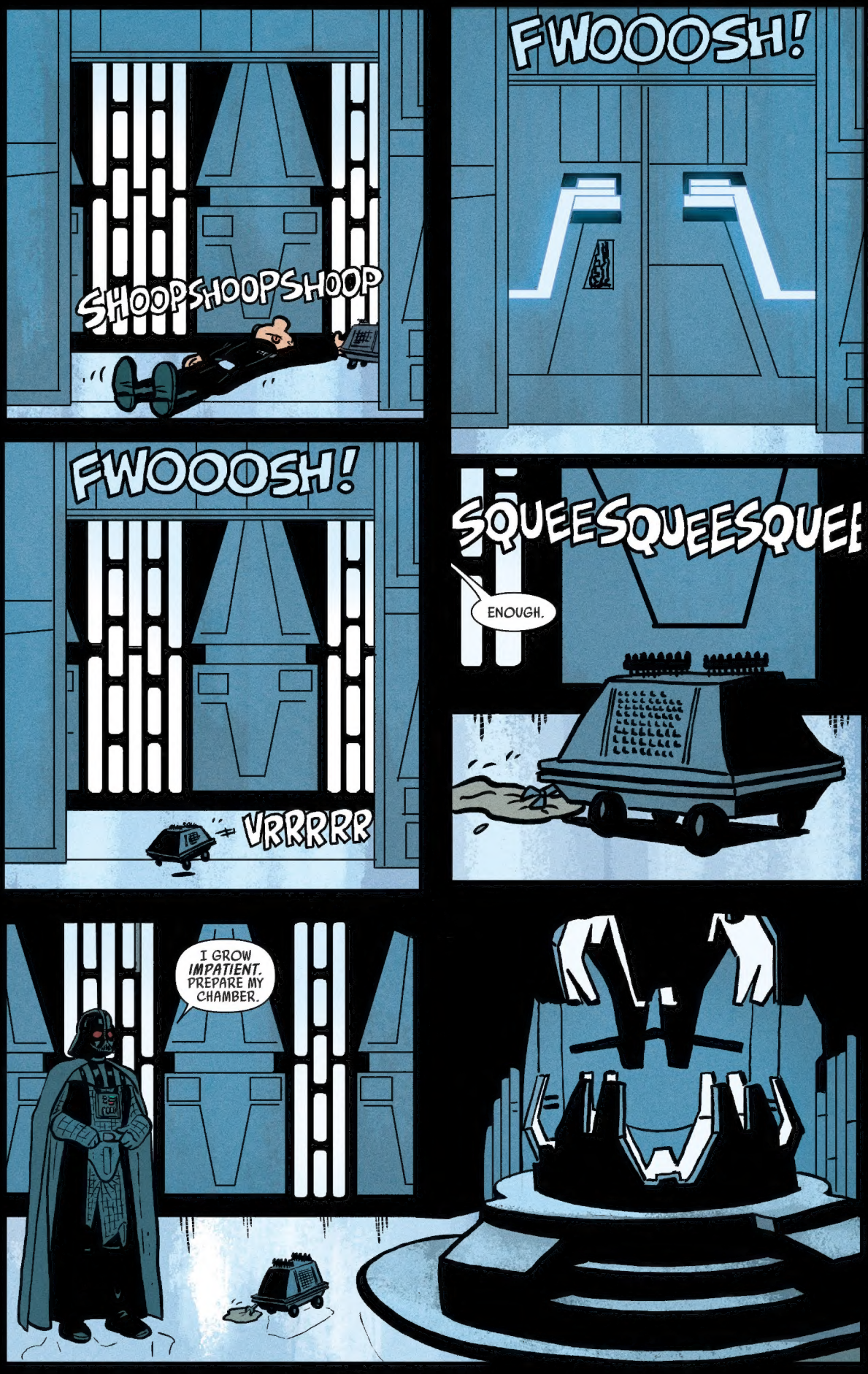
FWOOOSH!
BEEEP!

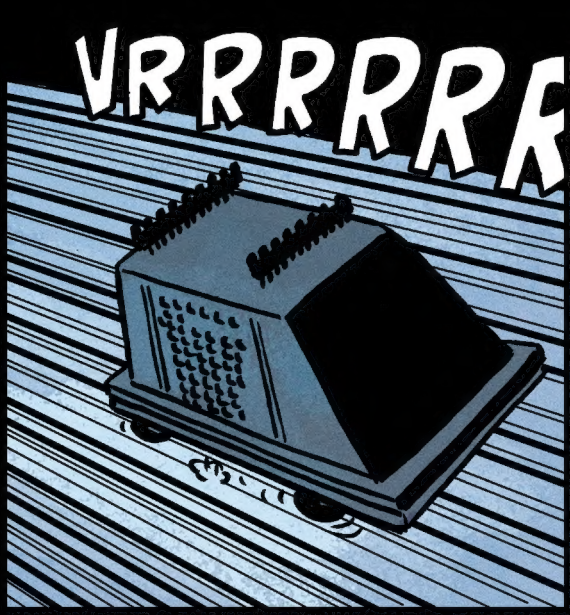
LORD VADER, IF I MAY...

VOOOOOOH

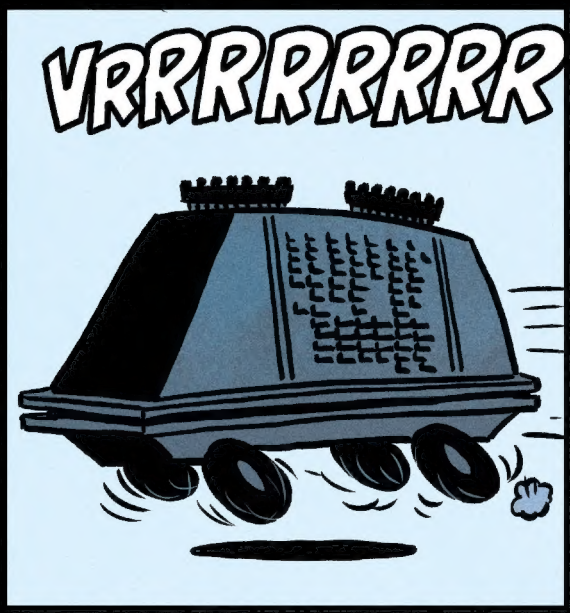
WE HAVE A SLIGHT PROBLEM.
WE DO NOT HAVE A PROBLEM.

IT IS YOU THAT WILL HAVE A PROBLEM IF I DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.
YOUR TIE FIGHTER CANNOT BE REPAIRED. WE HAVE TRIED EVERYTHING TO--
KAKK!
I GROW TIRED OF YOU AND HOW EASILY YOU GIVE UP. I AM NOW DONE WITH YOU.
FWUMP!


SHOOPSHOOPSHOOP
FWOOOSH!
FWOOOSH!
VRRRRR
SQUEESQUEESQUEE
ENOUGH.
I GROW IMPATIENT. PREPARE MY CHAMBER.


VRRRRRR

KLAK
KLIK
CHIK
SHOOOM


VRRRRRRRR

VRRRRRP

CLICK
CHUNK
VROOOO

NO MORE INTERRUPTIONS.

SURROUNDED BY INCOMPETENTS.
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS NOT TESTED MY IRE.
VRRRRRR
WUMP!
VWUH-VWOOH.
UNTIL NOW.

CHOOM!
SCRUNCH!
AT LAST.
THE END.

DARTH VADER
NEXT ISSUE: